

Service Employees and Partners Recognized at North American Director's Reception, March 17, 2005

Congressman Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) for his leadership in the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act.

Guy Bradley Awards:

Edward Dominguez, Special Agent for the Fish and Wildlife Service Las Vegas, NV

- Special Agent Dominguez entered the law enforcement arena 24 years ago, working first as a game warden for Texas Parks and Wildlife. In 1984, he joined the FWS staff as a special agent, where he has spent the last 20 years disrupting large-scale profiteering in U.S. and global resources; safeguarding native animals and plants from unlawful commercial exploitation by foiling organized operatives profiteering in public resources; and forging effective partnerships with the State fish and wildlife agencies and other Federal agencies.

Paul Hoover, Chief of Staff for the Division of Law Enforcement at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (retired) received the Guy Bradley Awards

- Chief Hoover launched his law enforcement career in 1973 when he joined the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission as a game manager. Since then, he has received numerous promotions, allowing him first to oversee law enforcement at a 4-county level for 10 years and then, beginning in 1991, to oversee law enforcement at the state level. In 1999, when the State of Florida merged several agencies to form the current Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Paul became the Chief of West Field Operations and helped lay the foundation for the new Division of Law Enforcement. He recently ended his career as Chief of Staff in the Division of Law Enforcement.

National Wildlife Refuge Association and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awards:

Refuge Employee of the Year – Laura Brandt, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, FL

- As Senior Wildlife Biologist at Loxahatchee NWR, Laura Brandt is active in multiple forums working for restoration the Greater Everglades ecosystem. Her enthusiasm and dedication have led to valuable collaborations with partnership agencies such as the USGS and academic institutions. She has streamlined and strengthened the refuge's biology program and organized the refuge's first science workshop focused on the linkage of management needs and science, which resulted in the development of a list of refuge science needs and strategies. As a

herpetologist with particular expertise in crocodilians, Laura's appreciation for alligators and crocodiles is infectious. She conducts and provides expert support for research projects in the Everglades, throughout the region, and even in Mexico. She is widely known and respected as a scientist who recognizes the importance of using the best known resource management techniques and who can facilitate communication and understanding between scientific and management priorities. Her demonstrated ability to combine her scientific expertise with the considerations of effectively managing wildlife resources has reached beyond Loxahatchee to benefit the entire Everglades region.

- *Refuge Manager of the Year – Roy Lowe, Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex,*
 - Roy Lowe began his FWS career as an Ecological Services biologist and is now manager of the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex. During his service there, the complex has grown from four to six refuges spread along a 300-mile coastline and from a staff of one manager to a staff of seven employees, four Friends groups and numerous partnerships with a wide diversity of local communities. Roy has worked effectively with land conservancy groups, private landowners and Indian tribes to add crucial acres of rare and essential habitat to the refuge complex, overcoming initial resistance by fostering effective communication and building mutually productive relationships. At each refuge, Roy has developed partnerships and nurtured collaborative projects with local organizations and volunteers based on the unique needs and background of each area and the wildlife resources it protects. His commitment to public outreach, research, and education has proven invaluable in projects such as the acquisition and restoration of Coquille Point and the preservation of the archeological and cultural significance of the Ni-les'tun Unit of the Brandon Marsh NWR.

Partners in Flight Awards:

For Leadership:

Joe Hautzenroder for his long-term work as liason between the Department of Defense and Partners in Flight

Otte Hendrick Ottema for Leadership in bird research and conservation in Suriname.

For Stewardship:

Kevin O'Kane, for Stewardship in industrial and wetland habitats of coastal North Carolina.

Pennsylvania Game Commission, for their role in the Pennsylvania Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program: Restoring grassland, farmland, and riparian habitats for birds.

For Investigations:

Bird Studies Canada, for Coordinated national-scale monitoring of boreal migrants.

Dr. Chris Elphick for his long-term work on saltmarsh-breeding sparrows along the Connecticut coast.

For Public Awareness:

Linda Winter, for Education and Outreach work for Citizens About Bird Conservation, particularly with the Cats Indoors program.

José Manuel Zolotoff-Pallais for his work with *La Tangara*, the newsletter of the International Working Group of Partners in Flight.

Military Installation Conservation Partnership Award

This year, the Service has created a new award to recognize the contributions of a military installation to our conservation efforts. I am proud to present our first annual Military Installation Conservation Partner Award to Fort Carson, Colorado.

The partnership, built between the Fish and Wildlife Service and Fort Carson, began in the early 1970's. Today, we have the largest cooperatively funded agreement between the Service and the military. Fort Carson funds Fish and Wildlife Service employees to work with installation personnel to address natural resource issues at the field level, helping ensure environmental compliance issues are resolved early in the planning process.